

Editorial

Editorial Forward to *IDR* Volume 15 – Beliefs as Lenses on Psychological Experience

Volume 15 of *Individual Differences Research* represents the third installment of the Back Volumes Project, an initiative aimed at consolidating, revisiting, and extending previous research on individual differences. The current volume includes two archival reprints and one new contribution which focus on how beliefs about the self, others, and psychological phenomena function as interpretive frameworks shaping perception, emotion, and behavior.

The new contribution in this volume, Kelly (2017), investigates the role of metacognitive attributional beliefs in insomnia. The study demonstrates that individuals' beliefs about the causal role of worry in their sleep disruption uniquely predict nocturnal sleep disturbance, over and above general anxiety and trait worry. These findings underscore the relevance of self-focused cognitive beliefs in psychological functioning and highlight potential avenues for intervention targeting maladaptive sleep-related attributions (Espie, 2000; Capobianco et al., 2020; Wells, 2009).

Complementing this new research, the volume features archival reprints that continue to illustrate the breadth of the Back Volumes Project. The reprint by Lucas and Goold (2008/2017) examines the malleability of fairness-related cognitive schemas, showing how interactive exercises can augment perceptions of procedural and distributive justice. This work emphasizes that beliefs about the social world, while relatively stable, are amenable to experiential influence, linking cognitive schemas to subjective well-being (Hafer, 2000). Another archival contribution explores lay beliefs about hypnosis (Furnham & Lee, 2005/2017) investigating how individuals' prior experiences with hypnotic demonstrations and personal susceptibility shape attitudes toward hypnosis as therapy and entertainment. The study highlights the role of metacognitive and culturally informed beliefs in shaping perceptions of psychological phenomena (Lynn & Kirsch, 2006).

Together, these three contributions exemplify the Project's, and Journal's, ongoing mission: to illuminate the study of individual differences across domains. Volume 15 demonstrates that individual differences in beliefs operate as interpretive lenses, guiding both perception and behavior, whether in self-focused domains such as sleep, in societal contexts such as justice perceptions, or in conceptual engagement with psychological phenomena like hypnosis.

By situating new empirical findings alongside archival research, this volume not only extends prior work but also reinforces the value of a cumulative perspective on belief systems, cognition,

and psychological functioning. The Back Volumes Project continues to provide a structured framework for examining individual differences, offering both theoretical integration and practical implications for understanding and intervening in cognitive and emotional processes.

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